

Aug. 3 1946

Mr Wendell Smith  
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Dear Friend:

I don't know when I have ever felt much worse than I did when I read your column this week about The Eagles being taken off the field in Cleveland. It was the first I knew about any confusion on the trip. I could hardly wait until Abe and Mackey returned to the city to hear what they had to say about it. They just returned today, and following is there story.

The score was tied 1-1 in an extra inning game. Hooker came to bat and got a hit. Mackey sent Isreal to run for him. The next man to come to bat was pitched one ball by the Cleveland pitcher, and called out, due to the fact Isreal did not tell the umpire he was running for Hooker. Now there is no question about the umpire should have been told Isreal was pinch running, and The Eagles were at fault in not doing it, but the penalty in the rule book for such an offence is a fine for the Captain or Manager of the team at fault. Under no condition is the next batter to be called out by the umpire for this offence. I do not like the team to squabble on the field, but I am sure no one would expect a manager to take a decision like that without arguing. Mackey also said the umpire did not tell him to stop arguing, or give him any warning of any kind he planned to call the game. Mackey also said after the game the officials in the press box showed Cleveland the rule in the book. One of the Cleveland players, the manager to be exact, said he knew the decision was wrong, but did not say anything at the time. Now I am asking you to be fair, and give this story as much space as you gave the other. I will never condone any unsportsmanlike conduct from The Eagles, on the other hand I do not expect them to accept stupid decisions like this one without protesting. If I had only heard this story from Mackey I could think he might be mistaken on some point, but this is the story told by Mr Manley also which makes me know it must be correct.

Very Truly Yours